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Soviet 'spy' ousters in U.K seen

LONDON (UPI) — Foreign Secretary Frances Pym faces a grilling from members of Parliament today about reports that Britain is about to expel Soviet diplomats and key officials suspected of spying.

Pym will be asked if intelligence provided by Soviet spymaster Vladimir Kuzichkin, who defected to Britain earlier this year, will lead to diplomatic expulsions on the scale of 1971, when the foreign office booted out 105 suspected Soviet spies.

Weekend leaks from intelligence and diplomatic sources to newspapers indicated another attack on Soviet espionage operations in Britain will follow the information Kuzichkin has provided about Soviet spy rings in London and other European capitals.

"Prompt action is likely following the vital disclosures made by Kuzichkin during long hours of interrogation at a safe house outside London," The Sunday Telegraph newspaper reported.

The Foreign Office, which rarely comments on security matters, declined to confirm or deny reports that a British demand for Moscow to recall a number of Soviets now serving in London was being considered.

Kuzichkin, 34, was a senior Tehran-based officer in Directorate S, the KGB department running Soviet agents abroad. He defected to Britain last winter. But the news was not broken until last weekend, shortly before the U.S. intelligence officials leaked word of a major Soviet penetration of British intelligence.

Announcement in London of a British intelligence breakthrough apparently was timed to defuse the impending American criticism.

That criticism, unconnected with the Kuzichkin case, stems from a series of intelligence scandals in Britain since the war involving Soviet penetration of the highest levels of British intelligence.